Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to assess the impact of organized retail on small retailers and vendors in the unorganized sector keeping in mind the likely growth in the overall market and effect on employment.

Reduction in quota of foodgrains for Sikkim

846. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMERAFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains being provided to the people of the country particularly in Sikkim State:

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the present quota of foodgrains *i.e.* rice, wheat, pulses, kerosene, etc. for the Sikkim State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken, so far, by Government for increasing/restoration of foodgrain quota for Sikkim State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMERAFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR, AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under TPDS 119.36 lakh tons of wheat and 273.14 lakh tons of rice have been allocated to States/UTs during 2007-08. Out of this, Sikkim has been allocated 4509 tons of wheat and 41283 tons of rice.

(b) to (d) The details are as follows:

(i) Foodgrains: There has been no change in the quota of allocation of foodgrains for the Below Poverty "Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories, which are being made @ 35 kg. per family per month for the number of households on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less.

The allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families have been rationalized, keeping in view the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, w.e.f. June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, for wheat and rice respectively on the basis of offtake figures for the previous year i.e. 2003-04,2004-05 & 2005-06. But, in view of peculiar circumstances of NE States and Sikkim APL rice allocation was increased by 1.5 times w.e.f. July, 2007 for these NE States and Sikkim, subject to their entitlement.

Presently, the State of Sikkim is being allocated foodgrains for all accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL families as per their entitlements.

(ii) Pulses: No allocation is made of pulses under TPDS from the Central Pool.

(iii) Kerosene: Kerosene (SKO) is one of items distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under